

701—7.16 (17A) Prehearing conference. The administrative law judge, upon motion, or upon the written request of a party, shall direct the parties to appear at a specified time and place before the administrative law judge for a prehearing conference to consider:

1. The possibility or desirability of waiving any provisions of the Act relating to contested case proceedings by written stipulation representing an informed mutual consent.
2. The necessity or desirability of setting a new date for hearing.
3. The simplification of issues.
4. The necessity or desirability of amending the pleadings either for the purpose of clarification, amplification or limitation.
5. The possibility of agreeing to the admission of facts, documents or records not really controverted, to avoid unnecessary introduction of proof.
6. The procedure at the hearing.
7. Limiting the number of witnesses.
8. The names and identification of witnesses and the facts each party will attempt to prove at the hearing.
9. Conduct or schedule of discovery.
10. Such other matters as may aid, expedite or simplify in the disposition of the proceeding.

Since stipulations are encouraged it is expected and anticipated that the parties proceeding to a hearing will stipulate to evidence to the fullest extent to which complete or qualified agreement can be reached including all material facts that are not or should not fairly be in dispute.

Any action taken at the prehearing conference shall be recorded in an appropriate order, unless the parties enter upon a written stipulation as to such matters or agree to a statement thereof made on the record by the administrative law judge.

When an order is issued at the termination of the prehearing conference, a reasonable time shall be allowed to the parties to present objections on the ground that it does not fully or correctly embody the agreements at such conference. Thereafter, the terms of the order or modification thereof shall determine the subsequent course of the proceedings relative to matters it includes, unless modified to prevent manifest injustice.

Without the necessity of proceeding to an evidentiary hearing in a contested case, the parties may agree in writing to informally dispose of the case by stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order or by another method agreed upon. If such informal disposition is utilized, the parties shall so indicate to the administrative law judge that the case has been settled.

If either party to the contested case proceeding fails to appear at the prehearing conference, or fails to request a continuance, or fails to submit evidence or arguments which the party wishes to be considered in lieu of appearance, the opposing party may move for dismissal. The motion shall be made in accordance with subrule 7.17(3).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.12.